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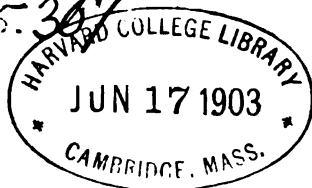
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Domesday Book.

THIS remarkable record, the oldest and most valuable survey among the national archives, was formerly kept by the side of the Tally Court, in the Receipt of the Exchequer, under three locks and keys, in charge of the Auditor, the Chamberlains, and Deputy-Chamberlains of the Exchequer, till, in 1696, it was deposited with the other records in the Chapter House at Westminster. In 1859 it was transferred to the Public Record Office.

Domesday Book consists of two volumes, of different sizes and appearance. The first, in folio, contains the counties of Bedford, Berks, Bucks, Cambridge, Chester and Lancaster, Cornwall, Derby, Devon, Dorset, Gloucester, Hants, Hereford, Herts, Huntingdon, Kent, Leicester and Rutland, Lincoln, Middlesex, Northampton, Nottingham, Oxford, Salop, Somerset, Stafford, Surrey, Sussex, Warwick, Wilts, Worcester, and York. The second volume, in quarto, contains the counties of Essex, Norfolk, and Suffolk.

The larger volume contains 382 leaves of parchment, with five old fly-leaves at the beginning and four at the end. The leaves measure $14\frac{1}{2}$ in. by $9\frac{3}{4}$ in., and are mostly in quaternions of eight leaves, though this is not invariable. The rubbed and worn look of the first and last leaves of the portion for each county appears to indicate that these portions were kept separate for some time before being bound together

in one volume. All the counties, however, do not begin a separate sheet, Cheshire being an instance to the contrary. There are three pages smaller than the rest (ff. 42, 76, 81). These are pieces of parchment added to complete a portion which could not be got into the space allotted for it. One is a scrap cut off a page already ruled, and used with the lines vertical. Another (f. 81) has been inserted in the wrong place, and should be between ff. 82 and 83. Lines are ruled on the pages with a dry point, and on the margin may be seen the small holes made by the 'runner' used as a guide for the ruler. The number of lines varies from 50 to 59, but the writing does not always keep to them, so that the lines of writing sometimes exceed in number the lines ruled, no doubt to rectify a miscalculation of the space allotted for the entries. *See* ff. 72 *b*, 154.

The page is divided into two columns, and perpendicular lines are ruled to mark the margins and central space, which are not always accurately observed. Blank pages, such as folio 126, distinctly show the method of ruling.

The writing is very clear, the letters being all distinctly and separately formed; and any difficulty which is experienced in reading the book, arises only from the abbreviations, the same mark of contraction being often used to represent widely different syllables.

There is no ornament, but the name of the county is written at the head of each page, in red, and a dash of the same colour is used to heighten capital letters.

The names of places are also emphasized by a red line running through the middle of the letters.

In several places there are omissions and additions in the side and bottom margins, the passages to which they refer being indicated by marks (ff. 45 *b*, 60, 61, 61 *b*, 98 *b*, 102, 103, 106 *b*, 165 *b*, 166 *b*, 238 *b*, 282 *b*, 289, etc.) and there are some erasures and alterations (ff. 63 *b*, 67, 91).

Some of the marginal notes—as at ff. 48, 48 *b*, 72 col. 2, 74, 102—appear to be subsequent additions.

The same scribe was not employed throughout, Derbyshire and Yorkshire and the 'Feodum Rotberti de Bruis' (f. 332 *b*), being noticeably in a different handwriting. At the County of Lincoln, however, the original hand recurs.

The fly-leaves contain memoranda of various kinds and dates, made by officers of the Exchequer, and an extent of lands and an inquisition, both original documents of the thirteenth century, have been inlaid in one leaf.

Vol. II. is of a smaller size, the leaves being 10½ in. by 6½ in. The parchment is mostly of a coarser character, and the writing, which is by several hands and more cursive, is generally larger than that of Vol. I. The lines are marked in the same way, but are farther apart, the number in a page varying from 20 to 28, except in the case of two leaves (229 and 230) inserted in the middle of 'Norfolk,' which have 40 lines. The point used for ruling has sometimes cut through the parchment. There is no division into columns. The varying quality of the parchment, and the frequent changes of handwriting, suggest that the volume is composed by binding together a quantity of separately prepared returns, rather than by transcribing them. The red colour employed is of a different kind to that in Vol. I., and is much more sparingly used. There are one or two clumsy attempts at ornamented capitals, but of no artistic value.

The survey was probably commenced late in 1085, and completed in 1086, according to the colophon in the second volume :

'Anno millesimo octogesimo sexto ab incarnatione Domini vicesimo vero regni Willelmi facta est ista descriptio non solum per hos tres comitatus sed etiam per alios.'

'On any hypothesis,' says Eyton, 'as to the time taken by the different processes which resulted in Domesday Book,

the whole, that is the survey, the transcription, and the codification, were completed in less than eight months, and three of the eight were winter months. No such miracle of clerkly and executive capacity has been worked in England since.' The Commissioners appointed to make the survey were to inquire the name of each place; who held it in the time of King Edward the Confessor; the present possessor; how many hides were in the manor; how many ploughs were in the demesne; how many homagers; how many villeins; how many cottars; how many serving men; how many free tenants; how many tenants in soccage; how much wood, meadow, and pasture; the number of mills and fish-ponds; what had been added to or taken away from the place, and how much each free man or soc-man had. All this was to be triply estimated: First, as the estate was held in the time of the Confessor; then, as it was bestowed by King William; thirdly, as its value stood at the formation of the survey; and it was to be stated whether any increase could be made in the value.

The inquisitions having been taken, were sent to Winchester, and were there methodized and enrolled in the form we now see them.

For some reason left unexplained, many parts were not surveyed. Northumberland, Cumberland, Westmoreland, and Durham are not described in the survey; nor does Lancashire appear under its proper name; but Furness, and the northern part of Lancashire, as well as the south of Westmoreland, with a part of Cumberland, are included within the West Riding of Yorkshire. That part of Lancashire which lies between the Ribble and Mersey, and which at the time of the survey comprehended six hundreds and one hundred and eighty-eight manors, is joined to Cheshire. Part of Rutland is described in the counties of Northampton and Lincoln.

The printed edition of 'Domesday' was commenced in 1773, and was completed early in 1783. (See THE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF DOMESDAY BOOK, in course of preparation by the Committee.)

The old 'Domesday' Covers.

These are the covers in which 'Domesday' was bound when it was deposited at the Chapter House, Westminster. The foundation is of wood, apparently of considerable antiquity; but the metal work does not appear to be earlier than the seventeenth century. In that depository russia leather covers were substituted for these old ones. After their transfer to the Public Record Office the two volumes had to be taken to pieces for the purposes of the facsimile reproduction of the text by photo-zincography; and, on their return from Southampton, they were placed in the present bindings. The work was carried out by Rivière in 1869.

In Devon's 'Issues of the Exchequer,' under date Michaelmas, 14 Edward III. (A.D. 1320), appears the following entry relating to the binding of the smaller book: 'To William, the bookbinder, of London, for binding and newly repairing the Book of Domesday, in which is contained the counties of Essex, Norfolk, and Suffolk, and for his stipend, costs, and labour; received the money the 5th day of December, by his own hands—3*s*. 4*d*.' Possibly this entry refers to the wooden cover of the smaller volume, which was, as already stated, removed at the Chapter House.

The + Domesday + Chest.

Nothing is known with precision as to the date of this curious specimen of early iron work. In Sir Francis Palgrave's Introduction to the 'Kalendars and Inventories of the Exchequer' (Vol. I. p. 118), a 'large chest' is described which bears a strong resemblance to this particular coffer. The passage runs: '16 January, 2 Henry VI., the Treasury received a case containing the Ampulla of consecrated oil with which the King is anointed on the day of his coronation, two pairs of bracelets, and a sceptre. And on the last day of February, 5 Henry VI., the Ampulla and the "Rod of Aaron" as the sceptre appears to have been designated, were taken out of their cases by the Duke of Bedford, in the presence of the Lords of the Council assembled in the Star Chamber, and placed in a coffer of leather, bound with iron, secured by three locks, and sealed with the Duke's signet; which coffer itself was placed *in a large chest in the Great Treasury at Westminster, also locked with three locks.* At the same time the great crown, then lately in the custody of the Bishop of Winchester, and previously deposited in the same coffer, was delivered by the Duke of Bedford and others of the King's Council, to Walter Hungerford, the Treasurer, and Chamberlains of the Exchequer.'

The external measurements are: length, 3 ft. 2½ in.; breadth, 2 ft. 1 in.; height, 2 ft. 3 in. The massive lid is 3 ft. 7½ in. by 2 ft. 3 in. The chest was formerly secured by three locks, and a small compartment in the interior has an additional lock. This chest was brought from the Chapter House with Domesday Book.

The +Abbreviatio+ of Domesday Book.

In the Introduction to the '*Antient Kalendars and Inventories of the Exchequer*,' Sir Francis Palgrave gives the following description of this manuscript: 'Besides the original "Domesday," the Treasury possesses an abridgment forming a very beautiful volume, apparently compiled early in the reign of Edward I. The handwriting is a fine specimen of caligraphy; the capitals are illuminated; in the margins of some of the pages are circles of gold, containing heads or half-lengths, representing the chief tenants whose lands are therein described. Prefixed are leaves of vellum, with six illuminations or pictures of incidents from the legend of Edward the Confessor. These are in a rude and singular style of art, possibly not later than the reign of Henry I. Peter le Neve has written a note on the fly-leaf, in which he states his belief that the volume was illuminated and transcribed in the reign of Henry VII.; a most singular error to have been committed by an antiquary of so much experience.' Le Neve's note runs:

'Memorandum quod ego Petrus le Neve, *Norroy*, et unus vice-camerariorum Scaccarii Domine Anne, Magne Britannie, &c., Regine, &c., suppono hunc librum scriptum fuisse in tempore regni Regis Henrici septimi, quia illuminationes adeo nitidæ, et exemplificatio ultime voluntatis Henrici septimi Regis Angliæ eadem quasi manu exarata est—Quære tamen.

'P. LE NEVE, *Norroy*.

'Vide etiam Guischartini descriptionem Belgie sub titulo Civitatis Bruges de illuminatoribus in Angliam transportatis.'

The six illuminations refer to the following incidents in the life of Edward the Confessor:

1. Edward the Confessor charges Earl Godwin with

causing the death of Alfred, the king's brother (*see* 'Lives of Edward the Confessor,' Rolls Series, p. 271).

2. The Earl offers to prove his innocence by eating a morsel of bread blessed by the king (*ib.* p. 272).

3. The Vision of the King of the Danes, drowned whilst passing from a boat on board a ship (*ib.* p. 215).

4. The Vision of the Seven Sleepers of Ephesus, turning from their right to their left sides (portending war, famine, and pestilence) (*ib.* p. 273).

5. The Miracle of the Eucharist (*ib.* p. 250).

6. The Legend of the Ring given by Edward the Confessor to St. John the Evangelist (*ib.* p. 276).

In the manuscript, marginal references are given to the pages of the 'Decem Scriptores,' where some of the incidents depicted are alluded to.

The 'Abbreviatio' was prepared for the use of the Chamberlains of the Exchequer. It has never been printed.

The 'Breviate' of Domesday Book.

This manuscript, which appears to be of the thirteenth century, belongs to the Queen's Remembrancer's Department of the Exchequer. It was compiled for the use of the Treasurer. In this abstract of 'Domesday' the 'villani,' 'bordarii,' and stock are omitted. The volume contains, in addition, curious verses and memoranda; among these are some of the prophecies of Merlin.

The 'Breviate' has never been printed.

The Boldon Book.

This celebrated survey of the Palatinate of Durham was made in the year 1183, by order of Bishop Hugh Pudsey, kinsman to King Stephen. It probably took its name from Boldon, a township and parish near Sunderland. The original of the Boldon Book is not known to be extant. Three copies of it, however, remain: 1. One preserved among the Auditor's Records, Durham. 2. One in the Library of the Dean and Chapter of Durham. 3. One among the MSS. of Archbishop Laud, at Oxford.

The first MS. here mentioned was transferred to the Public Record Office, with the other records of the Palatinate, in 1869. It is a manuscript of the fourteenth century, on parchment, entitled on the cover, 'Supervisus tempore Thome Hatfeld, Episcopi.' At leaf 103 commences the copy of Bishop Pudsey's Survey. This was the manuscript used by the Rev. Mr. Greenwell as the text of his edition of the 'Boldon Buke' published for the Surtees Society.

The 'Boldon Book' is also printed in Vol. IV. pp. 565-587 of the Record Commission Edition of Domesday. (See BIBLIOGRAPHY, *sub* Durham.)

The Red Book of the Exchequer.

After Domesday Book this is the most famous record of the Exchequer. Its compilation was commenced early in the reign of Henry III. Among the principal contents are:

1. The 'Dialogus de Scaccario,' or treatise on the ancient constitution and practice of the Exchequer, in which it is stated (Book I., chap. xv.) that 'Domesday' was always kept with the Great Seal at the Exchequer—'Porro liber de quo

quæris sigilli Regii comes est individuus in Thesauro.' This further description of 'Domesday' is also given in chapter xvi. of the 'Dialogue':—

Cum insignis ille subactor Angliæ Rex Willelmus, ejusdem Pontificis sanguine propinquus, ultiores Insulæ fines suo subjugasset imperio, et rebellium mentes terribilium perdomuisset exemplis ; ne libera de cætero daretur erroris facultas, decrevit subjectum sibi populum juri scripto legisbusque subicere. Propositis igitur legibus Anglicanis secundum tripartitam earum distinctionem, hoc est Merchenelage, Denelaga, Westsaxenelage, quasdam reprobavit, quasdam autem approbans, illis transmarinas Neustriæ leges, quæ ad Regni pacem tuendam efficacissimæ videbantur, adjecit. Demum ne quid deesse videretur ad omnem totius providentiæ summam, communicato consilio, discretissimos a latere suo destinavit viros per Regnum in circuitu. Ab hiis itaque totius terræ descriptio diligens facta est, tam in nemoribus, quam in pascuis et pratis, nec non et agriculturis, et verbis communibus annotata *in librum redacta est* ; ut videlicet quilibet, jure suo contentus, alienum non usurpet impune. Fit autem descriptio per Comitatus, per Centuriatas, et per Hidas, prænotato in ipso capite Regis nomine, ac deinde seriatim aliorum procerum nominibus apposis secundum status sui dignitatem, qui videlicet de Rege tenent in capite. Apponuntur autem singulis numeri secundum ordinem sic dispositis, per quos inferius in ipsa libri serie, quæ ad eos pertinent, facilius occurrunt. Hic liber ab indigenis *Domesdei* nuncupatur, id est, dies judicii per Metaphoram ; sicut enim districti et terribilis examinis illius novissimi sententia nulla tergiversationis arte valet eludi : sic cum orta fuerit in regno contentio de his rebus quæ illic annotantur, cum ventum fuerit ad Librum, sententia ejus infatuari non potest vel impune declinari. Ob hoc nos eundem *Librum Judicarium* nominavimus ; non quod in eo de propositis aliquis dubiis feratur sententia ; sed quod ab eo sicut a prædicto judicio non licet ulla ratione discedere.

The 'Dialogue' then proceeds to explain the nature of the hide, the hundred, and the county '*secundum vulgarem opinionem*.'

2. Copies of the 'Cartæ' of the tenants-in-chief returned into the Exchequer A.D. 1166, certifying what knights' fees they held and were held of them. Two only of the original 'Cartæ'—out of more than two hundred and fifty sent into the Treasury—are known to be extant.

3. The Inquisitions returned into the Treasury of the Exchequer in the 12th and 13th years of King John as to the holders of knights' fees and their services.

4. A collection of Serjeanties in different counties.

5. The 'Constitutio Domus Regis,' or Book of the Household of Henry II.

6. A large collection (made by Alexander de Swereford, an officer of the Exchequer), from the Pipe Rolls, of scutages levied between 2 Henry II. and 13 John, compiled in order to ascertain the knights' fees granted, so as to serve as a guide in future levies.

7. An abstract of the lost Pipe Roll of the first year of Henry II.

8. Documents and memoranda relating to the Exchequer.

9. Diplomas, charters, royal letters, papal bulls, and treaties.

An edition of the Red Book is in progress for the series of 'Chronicles and Memorials' (Record Publications).

The Black Book of the Exchequer

(Liber Niger Scaccarii).

This was part of the original stock or library of the Treasury, and so termed from the colour of its binding. The contents include: (1) A perpetual Kalendar for finding the Dominical Letters, &c., from the year 1184 (about which time it was made) to the year 1688. (2) An Almanac for the twelve months of the year, with coeval notices of remarkable

occurrences. The earliest of these passages relate to the battles of Lewes (14 May A.D. 1264) and of Evesham (4 Aug. A.D. 1265), and the latest incident is the battle of Branxton Moor [Flodden Field] (9 Sept. 1513). (3) Drawings in outline, representing the Eagle, the emblem of St. John; the Bull, the emblem of St. Luke; an Angel, the emblem of St. Matthew; and a winged Lion, the emblem of St. Mark, accompanied by verses from the Gospels. These representations may have been used for the purpose of administering an oath as upon the Gospels. (4) Drawings in outline of the Crucifixion, the Virgin and Child, St. Michael, &c. (5) The tract known as the 'Dialogus de Scaccario,' according to tradition in the original autograph of Gervase of Tilbury. (6) Oaths of various officers of the Exchequer. (7) Memoranda as to admissions of Chamberlains, Tellers, and Clerks of the Pells, extending from 19 Edward II. to 1715. Some original instruments are also inserted or annexed to the leaves.

The second part of this '*Liber Niger*' is a modern volume, containing appointments of Treasurers and Chamberlains and other officers, orders of Court concerning tallies, and other notices relating to the Receipt of the Treasury.

The only portion of the '*Liber Niger*' which has been printed is the 'Dialogus.'

The Smaller Black Book of the Exchequer

(*Liber Niger Parvus Scaccarii*).

The second '*Liber Niger*,' appertaining to the King's Remembrancer of the Exchequer, sometimes called '*Liber Niger Parvus*,' contains, among other matter, the '*Constitutio*

Domus Regis,' or an account of the royal household in the reign of Henry II.; the last Will of Henry II.; two conventions between Henry I. and Robert, Count of Flanders; conventions between Henry II. and Philip, Count of Flanders; another between Stephen and Henry, son of the Empress Maud; bulls of Pope Alexander III.; and copies of the charters of the King's tenants *in capite*, certifying the knights' fees held by them or holden of them in the year 1166.

Hearne published two editions of this book, but from imperfect transcripts.

The Pipe Rolls.

This fine series of Exchequer Rolls dates from a period about forty-five years earlier than any of the Chancery enrolments. Madox, in his '*History of the Exchequer*,' refers to these Rolls as 'Recorda, omnium quæ in archivis Regis usquam vidisse me memini splendidissima; post Rotulum quem *Librum Domesday* vocant; quin ei æquiparanda.' They contain the accounts of the King's revenue, year by year, as they were made up with the King's officers appointed to that service by the Sheriffs of the counties, who acted as the King's bailiffs, and by other ministers and debtors of the Crown.

The earliest Roll extant has been assigned by Hunter, who edited the manuscript for the Record Commission, to the thirty-first year of Henry I. (A.D. 1130-1). Between the date of 'Domesday' and this Great Roll of the Exchequer there is a chasm in the Public Records. The next Roll of the series is that of the second year of Henry II. (A.D. 1155-6), but from that early date the series is nearly perfect. A Roll of the fourteenth year of King Charles II. shows how these enrolments are increased in bulk in the seventeenth century as compared with those of the twelfth century.

The Pipe Rolls of 31 Henry I. ; 2, 3, and 4 Henry II. ; 1 Richard I. ; and 3 John (the Chancellor's Antigraph) were printed by the Record Commission. All the rolls prior to A.D. 1200 are now in course of publication by the Pipe Roll Society.

Tallies of the Exchequer.

The tallies in use at the Exchequer were narrow shafts of box, willow, or other hard wood, on which notches were cut to denote particular sums of money ; and by this primitive method the amounts paid into the Exchequer were duly checked. On the obverse surface of the shaft the principal numeral of the sum was cut in one bold notch. Then, on the reverse surface, were cut the subsidiary numerals of the sum required to be inscribed, with a suitable interval between each denomination. Thus, £1,000 was cut in one deep notch of the width of a man's palm ; for £100 the notch was no wider than a thumb-mark ; £20 was cut as broad as the little finger ; and the £1 notch was only deep enough to contain a barley-corn. These shafts, so scored, were subsequently split longitudinally, one half being handed to the King's debtor and the other half, or counter-foil, retained at the Exchequer. On the accountant's half being brought into the Exchequer for payment, the foil and counter-foil were first joined to test their agreement, and, if they tallied, the money was allowed. In the twelfth century nine inches seems to have been the usual length of a tally, but those of the present century are not unlike the wooden swords of the South Sea Islanders. In attempting to get rid of the tallies by burning them, the flues of the Houses of Parliament became overheated, and the two Houses were thus burnt down on the 16th of October, 1834.

Among the tallies selected for exhibition are some belong-

ing to the reign of Henry III., which relate to the manor of Ledcombe, in Berkshire ; they are the earliest and smallest specimens preserved in the Public Record Office. Some Court Rolls of this manor, of the same reign, are stated by Sir Francis Palgrave ('Antient Kalendars and Inventories of the Exchequer,' I. p. lxvi.) to be, in his belief, amongst the earliest rolls of this class of record now extant.

Cartae Antiquae.

These consist of transcripts, made during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, of charters granted by various Sovereigns, from Æthilberht, King of Kent, to the reign of Edward I. The earliest document entered on these rolls (Roll I. No. 18) is King Æthilberht's grant to St. Augustine's Monastery at Canterbury of the vill called Sturigao, otherwise Cistelet ; also a silver dish, a golden 'scapton,' a saddle with a bridle ornamented with gold and gems, a silver mirror, silken dalmatics, and an embroidered cloak, the gift of Pope Gregory. The date of this charter is given by Kemble as 9th January, 605. This transcript is followed by King Cnut's grant to the same monastery of the body of S. Mildred the Virgin, with all the land both within and without the island of Thanet, belonging to the same church. The first document on Roll CC. purports to be the foundation-charter of St. Peter's Monastery at Westminster, granted by King Edward the Confessor in 1066. The proem states :—

'That the King, considering his peaceful accession to the throne of this kingdom, after so many bitter wars in former reigns, had resolved to perform a pilgrimage to the temple of the apostles Saints Peter and Paul, and there to render thanks for benefits bestowed, and to pray that God would continue that peace to him and his successors for ever. He therefore reckoned up the expenses necessary for the journey, and the honourable gifts which he should make to the Holy

Apostles, but great anxiety befell the King's nobles lest during his absence the kingdom should be again disturbed by any hostility and lest any mischance or sickness should happen to him by the way, especially because he had no son. They, therefore, after due deliberation, besought him to desist from this purpose, promising that they would themselves make satisfaction for his vow to God in masses and prayers and a plentiful distribution of alms. But the King opposed this with all his might, and at length it was decided that two legates on behalf of either party, Bishops Ealdred and Hereman, and Abbots Wulfic and Ælfwin should be sent to declare to the Pope the King's desire, and also the desire of the others, and the King promised to abide by his sentence in all things. The legates therefore proceeded to Rome and found a synod assembled in the city. When they had explained the King's desire before two hundred and fifty bishops and a multitude of holy fathers, the Pope then, on the advice of the synod, wrote a letter to the King absolving him from his vow, and enjoining him to distribute to the poor the expenses which he had set apart for his journey, and either to construct anew, to the honour of S. Peter prince of the Apostles, a monastery, or to repair and enlarge the old one, and to provide its inmates with sufficient sustenance. These and other commands the legates related to the King, and in the meantime the blessed S. Peter revealed to a certain monk of an honest life, by name Wlfsin, his wish that the King should restore the place called Westminster, founded in the time of S. Augustine, the first bishop in England, and enriched by the munificence of the Kings of old, but which now from age and from wars seems almost destroyed. And when this vision was related to the King, and he received similar precepts from the apostolical letter, he applied himself to the rebuilding of that place. He, therefore, ordered to be tithed all his substance as well in gold and silver as in flocks, and all kinds of possessions; and destroying the old building, he constructed an entirely new church and caused it to be dedicated on the fifth kalends of January, on which day he placed there the relics which Pope Martin and Leo who consecrated him gave to King Ælfred, and which he besought Carloman, King of the French, should be given him, whose daughter, his father, King Æthelwlf, married after the death of his first wife,

and which from him came to his successor Æthelstan, then to Eadgar, and last to King Eadward ; namely, two pieces of the cross of our Lord, a piece of a nail, a piece of his garment without seam, and a piece of the garments of S. Mary, and relics of the apostles Peter and Paul, Andrew, Bartholomew, Barnabas, and of many other saints, and five coffers full of other relics of saints ; and he also granted right of sanctuary for every fugitive. The King also renewed and confirmed the privileges which his grandfather Eadgar, and his uncle the glorious King and Martyr Eadward son of Eadgar, and Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury, and King Æthelred his father gave to that place ; he also ordained that it should be free from all secular service, and that the election of abbots should be according to the rule of S. Benedict. Neither the abbot nor any other person to have liberty to sell or to give to strangers any of the possessions of the monastery. The King also granted and confirmed the gifts made by his predecessors,' &c. &c. [*Appendix to the 29th Report of the Deputy-Keeper of the Public Records*, p. 24.]

The following extract from the same King's grant to the Abbey of Waltham Holy Cross, in Essex, in A.D. 1062 (Roll M., No. 1), may be given as an illustration of the precise manner in which boundaries were defined in these early charters :—

‘ These are the land boundaries to Passefelde. That is, first from the old hatch at Freotherne felde to Presta hlype ; to the brook at Staundune ; and from Staundune to Scealdeforda, and from Sceldeforda to Coleboge well ; from the well again to the old hatch, and so again to Freothene field.

‘ These are the land boundaries to Welde. First from Dellen north to the mouth, east to Hafegeæte ; from Hafegeæte east to the wolf-pit ; from the pit south to the Purk, from the Purk south to Freobearne's leap, and so to Manne's land, and thence again to Dellen.

‘ These are the land boundaries to Upmynstre. First at Tigelhyrste south to the boundary ditch ; from the ditch west to Ingceburne, and from the bourne north to Beccengare ; and from

Beccengare north along the road-weald to Stangare ; from Stangare north into Mannes land ; from Mannes land again to Tigelhyrste.

'These are the land boundaries to Walhfare. First from the ash to the old leap ; from the leap to the old wood hatch ; from the hatch to the old road ; and from the road to Sandæcre ; and from the acre to Beadewan river ; from the river to Winebrook ; from the brook north again to the ash.

'These are the land boundaries to Tippedene. First to Tippa-burne ; from the bourne up to the heath ; from the heath to Thetden's boundary opposite Æffa's hatch, and so to the river ; along the river, then again to Tippeburne.

'These are the land boundaries to Æwartone. First at Werdhæcce ; from Wardhæcce to Eacroft ; from Eacroft to Beolle pool ; from the pool to Leofsige's meadows ; from Leofsige's meadow to Omermad ; from Omermad to Ætheric's leap ; from the leap to Wulf leap ; from Wulf leap to Thesfalde ; from Thesfalde to Stanway hatch ; from Stanway hatch to Sateres byrig.

'These are the land boundaries to Wudeford. First to Angric's bourne to Alderman's hatch ; to the King's hatch ; from the King's hatch again to Angric's bourne.

'These are the land boundaries to Lambe hythe. First at Brixges stane, and so on through the grove to the boundary dyke, and so to Bulke tree ; and from Bulke tree to Hyse ; and from Hyse to Ælsyge's hatch ; and so east to the road ; and so along the road again to Brixe stan.

'These are the land boundaries to Nassingan. That is from Cerlen hatch, along the mark to Scelden boundary ; and from Scelden boundary to the brook ; and from the brook to Butterwyelle ; and from Buterwelle to Thurolde's boundary ; and from Thurolde's boundary again along the mark to Cerlen hatch ; and the meadow thereto belonging lies out by the Lea.'—[*Appendix to the 29th Report of the Deputy-Keeper of the Public Records*, pp. 30-31.]

Pope Nicholas's Taxation.

In the year 1288, Pope Nicholas IV. granted the tenths of all ecclesiastical benefices to King Edward I., for six years,

towards paying the expenses of an expedition to the Holy Land ; and, that they might be collected to the full extent, a taxation by the King's precept was begun in that year and finished, as to the province of Canterbury, in 1291, and as to that of York, in the following year. This taxation, called 'Taxatio Ecclesiastica,' regulated the taxes of the clergy as well to our kings as to the popes, until the survey of 26 Henry VIII., called 'Valor Ecclesiasticus.'

This record has been printed.

Testa de NeBilla.

These volumes contain an account of fees holden either immediately of the King or of others *in capite* ; of fees holden in frankalmoigne, and the values thereof ; of serjeanties holden of the King ; of widows and heiresses of tenants *in capite*, whose marriages were in the gift of the King, and the values of their lands ; of churches in the gift of the King, and in whose hands ; of escheats, as well of the Normans as of others, in whose hands they were and by what services they were held ; and of the amount paid for scutage and aid by each tenant. The chief use of the work is to ascertain the principal landholders throughout the kingdom in the reigns of Henry III. and Edward I.

Sir Thomas Hardy, in his 'Descriptive Catalogue'—a work of extraordinary research—gives the following note :— 'The origin of the title of this record is a matter of doubt. Dugdale suggests that it was named after Jollan de Neville, one of the itinerant justices at that time ; but in all probability it was called after Ralph de Nevill, a collector of aids in the reign of Henry III. It has also been suggested, though with more conceit than probability, that "Testa de Nevill was a jocular appellation equivalent to *Nevill's*

headpiece—Testa meaning the skull, and being the origin of the French *teste* or *tête*—and was bestowed on the document, as supplying information possessed by some experienced officer of the Exchequer, who may have written it as a remembrance to serve his successors in office ; or it may have been completed after the death of such a person, to serve the place of his *skull*, which in his lifetime had contained the knowledge of the documents from which it had been made up.”

This record has been printed by the Record Commission.

Kirby's Quest.

In 35 Edward I. (A.D. 1306-7), Adam Kirkeby or Kirby, then Treasurer, and his fellows, made inquiry, according to the ancient custom, by inquests or verdicts of juries, concerning the tenures *in capite* throughout several of the shires of England, and the result of these verdicts or inquests was a volume which, in some respects, is analogous to ‘Domesday,’ inasmuch as it comprehends all the immediate military tenants of the Crown. Only a fragment of the original is now extant, preserved among the ‘Subsidy Rolls’ (249), containing portions of the counties of York, Devon, Dorset, Salop, Kent, Oxon, and Lincoln. The remaining portions of Kirby's Quest are preserved to us, in a sixteenth-century transcript—a volume belonging to the Queen's Remembrancer's side of the Exchequer. There are two volumes among the Chapter House Books (B₁₇ and B₂₄), which contain portions of ‘Kirby's Quest.’

The Book of Aids.

This volume contains the details of the assessment of the Aid (‘rationabile auxilium’) granted in the 20th year of

King Edward III. for knighting the Black Prince. The returns include the following counties: Bedford, Bucks, Cambridge, Cumberland, Devon, Cornwall, York (East and West Ridings), Essex, Hertford (under Essex), Gloucester, Hereford, Kent, Lancaster, Lincoln ('in partibus de Holand'), Middlesex, Nottingham, Derby, Norfolk, Suffolk, Northumberland, Salop, Stafford, Somerset, Dorset, Southampton, Worcester. Returns of the Aid for the marriage of Blanche, the King's daughter, in the counties of Oxford, Berks, Wilts, and Stafford are also included in this MS.

Portions of this book have been printed in the Transactions of various Archæological Societies.

Registrum Munimentorum.

The very valuable and important registers so entitled are designated in the Memoranda as the two books bound in wood and covered with red leather (the present bindings are modern), and called the Books of Remembrances, otherwise the Registers. They formed part of the Treasury Library. From the handwriting and the contents they appear to have been framed in the earlier part of the reign of Edward I. They were intended as the commencement of a regular and continuous register of public documents, but principally of those relating to foreign affairs and to the transactions of the dependencies of the English Crown. The two folio volumes are now distinguished as 'Liber A' and 'Liber B.' The Will of Edward I., made at Acres, will be found at p. 308 of Vol. A. Some of the marginal drawings are curious.

Portions of Vols. A. and B. are printed in Rymer's 'Fœdera.'

Valor Ecclesiasticus.

The 'Valor Ecclesiasticus' or 'Liber Regis' was formed to give effect to the Statute 26 Henry VIII. cap. 3, which gave the first-fruits and tenths of ecclesiastical benefices to the King. To carry out the new assessment and valuation of ecclesiastical property, a survey was appointed to be made by Commissioners to be sent to every part of the kingdom. The commission is dated 30th January, 26 Henry VIII. (1535). Part of the original records are lost. Some of the returns were made in the form of books, some on rolls of paper and on parchment. Fortunately there is a book preserved, being a compilation made from these records for the use of the office of First-Fruits when the record was entire. In this book are entered the names of the dignities and benefices, with the value of each, but without the particulars. From this MS., called the 'Liber Valorum,' the deficiencies were supplied in printing the 'Valor Ecclesiasticus,' viz. the whole diocese of Ely, a great part of the diocese of London, the counties of Berks, Rutland, and Northumberland, much of the diocese of York, including the whole deaneries of Rydal and Craven. This assessment or survey superseded that known under the name of the Taxation of Pope Nicholas (temp. Edw. I.), which, however, is still of use in the interpretation of the statutes of some colleges founded before the Reformation, which are exempted from the restriction in Statute 21 Henry VIII. concerning pluralities. The 'Valor' contains surveys of archbishoprics, bishoprics, abbeys, monasteries, priories, colleges, hospitals, archdeaconries, deaneries, provostships, prebends, parsonages, vicarages, chantries, free-chapels, or other dignities, benefices, offices, or promotions spiritual.

This has been printed by the Record Commission in six volumes

Registers . Chartularies . Leidger . and Cowcher Books.

These volumes, mostly monastic, contain transcripts of the charters by which lands and hereditaments were granted to the various religious houses. Many important surveys are also set out in the pages of these manuscripts. The following are selected from those now preserved among the Public Records :

The Great Cowchers or Cartæ Regum of the Duchy of Lancaster.

The White Book of the Duchy of Cornwall.

Chartulary of the Monastery of Chertsey.

Chartulary of Oseney Priory.

Chartulary of the Monastery of St. Augustine, at Canterbury.

Cowcher of the Abbey of Selby.

Cowcher of the Monastery of Furness.

Cowcher of the Honor of Tutbury.

Custumals of Battle Abbey.

Chartulary of Ramsey Abbey.

Cowcher of Kirkstall Abbey.

Register of St. Edmond's Bury.

Register of St. Nicholas Burscogh.

Chartulary of Malmesbury Abbey.

Chartulary of Torre Abbey.

Chartulary of the Monastery of Godstowe.

Chartulary of the College of Warwick.

Chartulary of the Monastery of Langdon.

Register of Lands of the Templars.

Chartulary of the Monastery of Newstead.

The Vetus Codex.

Register of Richard de Kellawe, Bishop of Durham.

As a specimen of the contents of these volumes, the following abstract of King Eadgar's charter, granted to the Abbey of Ramsey (*Chartulary*, f. 136), and dated 28th December, A.D. 974, may be quoted :—

'The King notifies that a certain man very dear to him, and very nearly related to him, by name Aylwyn the Alderman, with his assent and licence, constructed in the island called by the inhabitants Rameseya, in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary and S. Benedict, a monastery for holy virgins, and foreseeing the uncertainty of future times, he determines to make known to posterity how a miracle was performed there, as related by certain bishops and by Aylwin himself, thus :

'The aforesaid illustrious man Aylwin having been afflicted many years with gout in the feet, it happened one night that a certain fisherman of his named Wlfget went to the water called Rammesmere with his boat and attendants and line to catch fish for his master according to his usual custom. But although he cast his net about endeavouring to catch something, it was the will of God that his labour should be in vain, and at length being overcome by fatigue, he fell asleep in his boat ; and in his sleep the holy S. Benedict appeared unto him, saying thus : " When Aurora scatters her beams over the heavens, then cast thy net, and thou shalt meet with as great a multitude of fishes as thou wishest ; and the larger one of them which ye call Haked offer thou to thy master Aylwin on my behalf, saying, that on receiving my gift he should without delay apply himself to the building for the Holy Mother of Mercy, and for myself, and for all holy virgins in this island, a fitting monastery, with necessary offices ; and I beseech thee to make known to him all these things in order, adding speech to speech that he may diligently observe in what manner his animals there, when weary, lie down upon the earth by night, and wherever he shall see the bull on arising from sleep, strike the ground with his right foot, that he should know without doubt that he ought to erect on that spot the altar of a monastery. And that he may the more readily and surely give credence to my commands, this thy little finger, which I now bend, he, immediately he is freed from his gout, shall restore for thee."

'Then the same master of the fishermen waking early, and seeing a streak of daylight in the east, began to loose his net, as he was ordered ; and, as the holy father had told him, he drew in a great multitude of fishes, and, choosing the larger one of them on behalf of S. Benedict, offered it to his master, and related to him all that he had learned in his vision, and besought him that he would use his utmost to straighten his finger, which was bent by the saint. Aylwin, understanding all these things, straightened the man's lame finger, and, taking the fish, gave innumerable thanks with blessing to the Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to S. Benedict, and arising with haste, ordered his horse to be prepared, and, travelling to the island, went to see, as he was ordered, how his animals were lying. Wonderful ! and to be wondered at ! immediately he entered the island he was at God's command freed entirely from his intractable disease, and saw his animals lying in the form of the cross, and the bull in the midst of them. And as once upon a time a lamb with his right foot revealed to S. Clement the place of a fountain, so the bull striking the ground with his foot revealed, in a divine manner to this man, the place of the altar of the future monastery. Whereupon Aylwin, praising God, immediately ordered that a chapel should be built there of wooden logs, in fine work, and then, as he was ordered, constructed in a becoming form a monastery for a future congregation of regular monks. Then, after the lapse of five years and eighteen days, on the petition of Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury, and Oswald, Archbishop of York, the King on the sixth ides of November A.D. 974, second indiction, caused the same church to be dedicated with becoming solemnity in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of the saints aforesaid. The same year also at Christmastide the King confirmed all gifts of lands or possessions made by the said Aylwin, or any other persons to the said church for ever.' [*Appendix to the 29th Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records*, p. 18.]

Vos valet et plaudite.



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